Trash – How to Dispose of it in 2015?

Executive Summary

In view of this change the Board of Selectmen (BOS) set up a Solid Waste Advisory Task Force (SWAT) to **"evaluate potential future solid waste and recycling disposal options for the Town of Chatham in an effort to increase recycling, offset future solid waste disposal costs, and to present these options to the BOS with the Task Force recommendations."**

SOLID WASTE

ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Report to Board of Selectmen

February 19, 2013

Future System Options

1. Status Quo: Do Nothing
2. Close TS, residents use commercial haulers
3. Lease TS to third party
4. Town-wide curbside collection (private or town-run)
5. Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)
6. Maintain Current System with Improvements to Efficiency

Status Quo: Do Nothing

This will result in:

- Increased cost to town for MSW disposal
- No significant increase in recycling
- Increased permit fees or taxes to cover increased tipping fees
- To cover the potential increases in the tipping fees and possible escalator in the new contract, the cost of a TS sticker would have to increase by $24 starting in FY14

Close TS, Residents use Commercial Haulers

SWAT believes this will result in:

- No significant increase in recycling
- No savings to the town
- Loss of flexibility
- Financial burden residents (average costs for private pickup $12-$14/pickup)
- Loss of jobs at TS
- Financial impact on the two local haulers (e.g. increased competition)
- Change in social aspect of “the dump”

TS to Third Party

- Cost to town unknown
- Impact on recycling rate unknown
- Potential loss of jobs

Town-wide curbside collection (private or town-run)

- Effect on recycling rate unclear without further study
- Establishing a curbside pickup program would likely require significant upfront capital costs
- Traffic congestion & noise
- Trash at curbside unsightly and can attract nuisance animals
- Change in social aspect of “the dump”

Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)

- Significant potential cost savings to town
- Increase in recycling rate providing incentive to keep cost down by resident
- Cultural change to residents
- Costs to some residents could increase while costs to others could decrease
- Considered a tax by some, user fee by others
- Bag or tag system used as enforcement mechanism

Chatham
-PAYT Cost per Household Estimates

David Quinn, Barnstable County Regional Waste Reduction Coordinator, created a sample PAYT Model for Chatham.

The model suggests a family of 2

- with a 25% reduction in trash could, with a $70 sticker and $1.25 bags, pay $118/yr.
- with a 35% reduction in trash, pay $111/yr; and
- with a 50% reduction, pay $102/yr.

Chatham
-PAYT Cost per Household Estimates

Under the same pricing structure, a larger family of 4:

- with a 25% reduction of trash, could pay $165/yr.
- with a 35% reduction in trash, pay $153/yr; and
- with a 50% reduction, pay $133/yr.

Maintain Current System with Improvements to Efficiency:

- Significant potential cost savings to town
- Increase in Recycling rate through enforcement
- No significant startup cost if reallocation of TS staff
- With no increase to Recycling Rate, cost per household could increase $24 ($88k worth of garbage monitor salary can be supported at current budget using $88k surplus)

Maintain Current System with Improvements to Efficiency:

- With increase of Recycling Rate to 71.5%, cost per household remains constant
- With increase of Recycling Rate to 90%, cost per household can fall by $28 ($108k/3800 households)
- This option retains all conveniences and services currently provided by the TS

ABC Disposal Services – An Alternative to SEMASS

1. Recently ABC Disposal Services appeared on the radar as an alternative to SEMASS.
2. ABC proposes to construct a technologically advanced plant capable of separating 90% of the recyclables from trash.
3. Accepts all trash including construction debris.
4. Will not require a minimum annual tonnage.
5. Will accept a one year contract.
6. Tipping fee of $60 or less per ton.
7. Chatham can determine whether or not to continue the current recycling protocols, implement new protocols or continue existing protocols which achieve a 39% recycling rate.